

NOMENCLATORIAL CHANGES IN SPECIES
OF SPIRANTHES FOUND IN PERU

BY
CHARLES SCHWEINFURTH

The following nomenclatorial changes have been found advisable in studying the Spiranthinae recorded from Peru.

Spiranthes laxa (*Poepp. & Endl.*) *C. Schweinfurth*
comb. nov.

Stenorrhynchus laxus (as *Stenorrhynchos laxum*)
Poeppig & Endlicher *Nov. Gen. ac Sp.* 2 (1837) 7, t.
109—Cogniaux in *Mart. Fl. Bras.* 3, pt. 4 (1895) 172.
Pelexia laxa Lindley *Gen. & Sp. Orch. Pl.* (1840) 482.

Since it seems advisable, from the viewpoint of simplicity, to follow Bentham & Hooker f. in including the concept *Stenorrhynchus* in the older genus *Spiranthes*, a new combination must be made.

Spiranthes Lechleri *C. Schweinfurth* *comb. nov.*

Brachystele Lechleri Schlechter in *Fedde Repert. Bei-*
hefte 9 (1921) 59—Schlechter ex Mansfeld in *Fedde*
Repert. Beihefte 57 (1929) t. 107, nr. 421.

Since the genus *Brachystele* Schltr. is considered to be inseparable from the polymorphic *Spiranthes*, the concept *B. Lechleri* is herewith transferred to the latter genus.

In some Peruvian collections (*Macbride & Featherstone* 1224, 1589, 2273) which are referable to this species, there are often present clusters of very stout tuberoid roots; the height of the plant sometimes exceeds 4 dm. and at most the floral bracts only slightly exceed the flowers. Moreover, the flowers which are slightly larger than those of the type, are designated as bright to deep golden yellow, and the mid-lobe of the lip is commonly

transversely oblong or oval-oblong and retuse-apiculate rather than "suborbicular." The dates of collection extend from June 16 to August 21, 1922.

Spiranthes maculata *C. Schweinfurth comb. nov.*
Pelexia maculata Rolfe in Kew Bull. (1893) 7—Summerhayes in Bot. Mag. 158 (1935) t. 9418.

In accordance with our plan of simplification, the genus *Pelexia* is referred to *Spiranthes* and a new combination is thus necessitated.

Although the habitat was cited as "not recorded" in the original diagnosis and was later cited by Summerhayes as questionably from Venezuela, we have seen a definitely localized collection from the Herbarium of the Field Museum. The data are as follows:

PERU: La Merced, at about 600 meters altitude, edge of mountain stream, leaves mottled with lighter green, flowers "white tipped, slightly reddish without", August 10-24, 1923, *J. Francis Macbride 5526*.

This Peruvian collection differs from the type in having somewhat larger leaves which are up to about 18 cm. long and 8.5 cm. wide.

Spiranthes Rimbachii (*Schltr.*) *C. Schweinfurth comb. nov.*

Cyclopogon Rimbachii Schlechter in Fedde Repert. Beihefte 8 (1921) 166.

The transfer of this concept to the genus *Spiranthes* requires a new combination.

A Peruvian collection of this species has been recently examined. It differs from the Ecuadorian type in the following particulars: one plant reaches about 6 dm. in height (in contrast to a maximum height of 5 dm.), one plant bears six basal leaves and another specimen bears eight cauline sheaths (in contrast to a maximum of four). The lip is slightly broader than that of the type and is about 7 mm. wide.

Ayacucho: Prov. Huanta, Choimacota Valley, at 2900-3000 meters altitude, in shady places in evergreen bush-wood, flowers reddish-white, February 28-March 10, 1926, *A. Weberbauer* 7575.

Spiranthes subumbellata *C. Schweinfurth* *nom. nov.*

Synassa corymbosa Lindley in Bot. Reg. 19 (1833) sub t. 1618.

Pelexia corymbosa Lindley Gen. & Sp. Orch. Pl. (1840) 482—Kränzlin in Engler Bot. Jahrb. 54, Beibl. 117 (1916) 19.

The inclusion of this species in the genus *Spiranthes* necessitates a new specific epithet, since the name *corymbosa* has already been used in the genus *Spiranthes* (*S. corymbosa* Kränzl. in Engler Bot. Jahrb. 54, Beibl. 117 (1916) 17).

Spiranthes vaginata “*Lindl.*” *ex Jackson* in Ind. Kew. (1895) 967.

Neottia vaginata Humboldt, Bonpland & Kunth Nov. Gen. et Sp. 1 (1816) 331—Lindley Gen. & Sp. Orch. Pl. (1840) 472.

Stenorrhynchus vaginatus Sprengel Syst. Veg. 3 (1826) 710.

In Index Kewensis (1895) p. 967, the authorship of this species was attributed to Lindley (Gen. & Sp. Orch. Pl. (1840) 472), and this citation has been continued by various authors subsequently.

However, this concept was cited by Lindley (l.c.) as “*Neottia vaginata*” and included as No. 32 among a long list of *Spiranthes* species with the preceding caption “To this section [of *Euspiranthes*] probably belongs” [this species]. So, while Lindley’s obvious intention was to regard the species as a member of the genus *Spiranthes*, the fact remains that the combination was not specifically made by him. Consequently the citation should be given as above.